



SC Department of Employment and Workforce

NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact:
Heather Bianca

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Thousands of Professional Courses Available to UI Claimants at No Cost

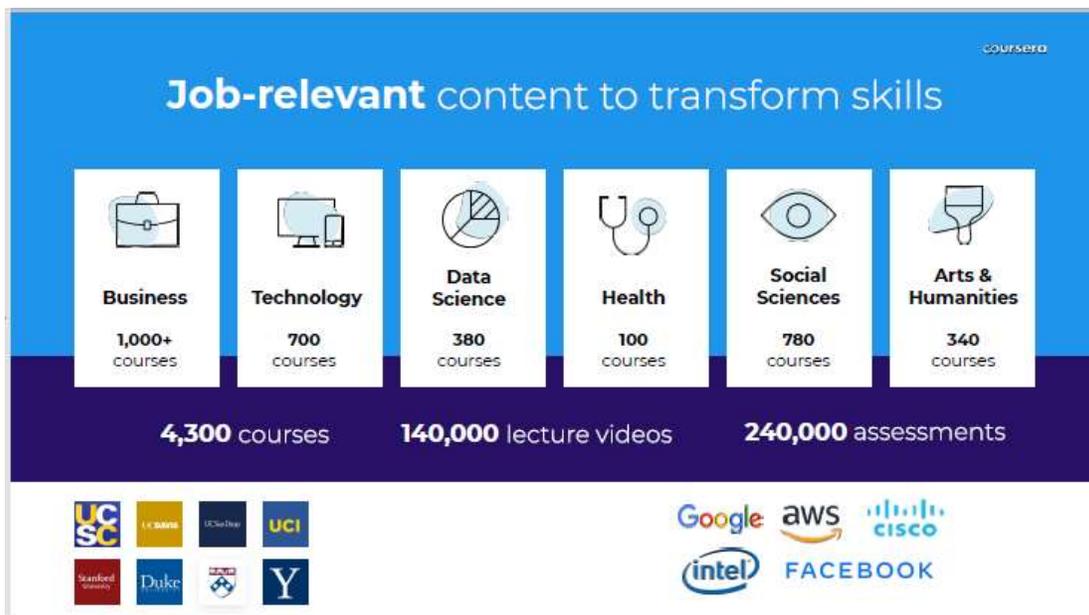
SC Department of Employment and Workforce Partners with Coursera

Key Points:

- The *Coursera Workforce Recovery Initiative* is teaming up with state governments in the U.S. and the leadership of countries around the world to offer 4,300 courses and 400 specializations from top universities and corporations, including Amazon and Google.
- Unemployment Insurance participants displaced by the COVID-19 pandemic are invited to participate.

The Department of Employment and Workforce has partnered with Coursera, a leading online learning platform, to launch *Coursera Workforce Recovery Initiative* in South Carolina. This initiative is intended for worker retraining and reskilling for those displaced from work as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

More than 4,000 courses and certifications are available on Coursera, all designed by the world's leading university and industry educators, covering various skillsets in Business, Technology, Data Science, Health, Social Sciences and Arts & Humanities. Some of the courses include Professional Certificates, like the Google IT Support Professional Certificate, designed specifically to train people to return to work in high-demand jobs. Instead of having to pay \$399 per year to access Coursera's platform, this opportunity can help to bolster resumes and earn professional certificates without paying a penny.





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“This is an incredible opportunity for hard working South Carolinians who are still facing employment challenges in the wake of COVID-19. Not only can someone take advantage of these courses to professionally propel them forward, we are so pleased to be able to partner with Coursera so the financial burden doesn’t fall on the shoulders of the claimant. We thank Coursera for providing another way to support the State Workforce Development Board’s priority to reskill and upskill our state’s workforce,” states Michelle Paczynski, Assistant Executive Director of Workforce Development at the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce.

Need to Know Facts

- Unemployment Insurance participants furloughed or laid off due to COVID-19 are invited to participate and receive free access to the Coursera platform.
- DEW is communicating specific registration information about the opportunity by email sent through the claimant portal.
- To date, nearly 4,000 South Carolinians have registered to receive access to Coursera through the link provided.
- The top classes in which South Carolina claimants are currently enrolled include:
 - Excel Skills for Business.
 - Technical Support Fundamentals (Information Technology).
 - Accounting: Principles of Financial Accounting.
 - COVID-19 Contact Tracing.
 - Introduction to Web Development.
 - Programming for Everybody.
 - Work Smarter, Not Harder: Time Management for Personal and Professional Productivity.
 - Introduction to Data Analysis Using Excel.
 - Better Business Writing in English.
- Classes are offered in several languages and are accessible by smart phones and tablets.

Need to Know Deadlines:

- Claimants must register with Coursera by October 31, 2020.
- There is no limit to the number of courses an individual can take, but courses must be completed before the end of the calendar year, December 31, 2020.

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About the S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce

The S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce is putting South Carolinians to work. The agency has four missions: (1) workforce development; (2) free job match employment services; (3) unemployment insurance; and (4) labor market information. All four missions contribute to workforce development. The agency is dedicated to advancing South Carolina through services and programs that meet the needs of our businesses, jobseekers and those looking to advance their careers.

**An initial claim is a claim filed by an unemployed individual after a separation from an employer. The claimant requests a determination of basic eligibility for the UI program. When an initial claim is filed with a state, certain programmatic activities take place and these result in activity counts including the count of initial claims. The count of U.S. initial claims for unemployment insurance is a leading economic indicator because it is an indication of emerging labor market conditions in the country. However, these are weekly administrative data which are difficult to seasonally adjust, making the series subject to some volatility.*
